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Steampunk Lolita
Focus on Hilde
Belgian Cupcakes Magazine
Nr 4. January/February 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of Belgian Cupcakes Magazine of 2012 (even though it is still late 2011 when this is released), our fourth to date!

This edition is larger than others, covering holidays and exceptionally spanning an extra month does that to a magazine apparently. But that just means more things to read and enjoy!
Especially if you're victim to boring family affairs over the holidays.

For this edition we have foreign guest contributors Hoa Tu Ngoc of the German Candy Day community and Tania Tanzil of the London Lolita community to talk about events in their home countries.
Thanks for writing a piece for us guys!

And a big thank you to all the other contributors who really came through to help put this issue together, I really couldn't have done it without you!

Sadly the photo competition isn't going through this time, as for a competition to happen we need more than just one entry. Apologies to Valerie, who was the sole contestant.

Valerie's entry to our "Holiday" competition.

We're going to give the competition one more go in next edition. The theme for that is "love". So if you want the competition to keep running: send in one photo conform to the theme and the submission rules (see p. 31 of this edition).

In other photography related news,
The Box in Mechelen, home to our beloved Purikura machine is closing it's doors on January 15th.
The Purikura, however, is moving to Stijn's new shop in the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwenstraat in Mechelen. So whilst the box is going, the Purikura is simply moving to another location in the same town, so we're not loosing the only Belgian machine.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season filled with fine company, epic presents and good food and I wish you all the best for 2012!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

SWEET LOLITA PRINT NAME GENERATOR

1. BIRTH MONTH

January- Melty
February- Milky
March- Starry
April- Sugary
May- Dreamy
June- Sweet
July- Lovely
August- Romantic
September- Cute
October- Frilly
November- Delightful
December- Sparkly

2. FIRST LETTER OF YOUR NAME

A- Bear
B- Pony
C- Mermaid
D- Fawn
E- Puppy
F- Kitten
G- Fairy
H- Castle
I- Garden
J- Parfait
K- Cupcake
L- Teacup
M- Ice Cream
N- Toy
O- Bunny
P- Circus
Q- Strawberry
R- Chocolate
S- Vanilla
T- Angel
U- Polkadot
V- Melody
W- Doll
X- Sheep
Y- Poodle
Z- Candy

3. FAVORITE COLOR

Red- Party
Pink- Princess
Orange- Dream
Yellow- Night
Green- Story
Blue- Fantasy
Purple- Journey
White- Cafe
Black- Magic

Disneyland Paris' Princess Pavillion

On October 8th 2011 the Princess Pavilion in Fantasyland officially opened its doors. They're located next to the exit of It's a Small World, where the French Télecom around the world set-up used to be. Let me start by saying that if you are NOT a honest to god and true Princess fan or a hardcore character hunter, you're better off staying away from this place as far as humanly possible. My friend Sam and I are both holders of an Annual Passport: Dream, and we were lucky enough to be in the park on the second preview day, which was organised for people with that kind of AP. So curiosity got the best of us (and mainly of me) and we decided to pop in and see what it's like.

The set-up is beautiful. No doubt about it. The décor is gorgeous, there's faux stain glass window imagery of all the princess castles and light-up displays of things like Aurora's tiara, Snow White's apple, Ariel's seashell etc.
Beautifully done, just a tad hard to photograph, even with an SLR, due to the lighting in the place but other than that, no complaints at all.

When you've gone through that entrance hall you need to go up a sort of slope. We were in that for about half an hour I think, surrounded by hysterically screaming little children (most of them were toddlers or barely older). Some of the parents were doing a good job actually parenting but the vast majority just let their kids at it, allowing them to smash their fists into the lamps near the grounds set into the wall (which thankfully have re-enforced plastic covers), smash food into the carpet and the lamps or kick at whatever they could kick at set-up wise.
When you reach the top of that slope and you're next, you will be greeted by a CM at a little standing desk like they have at the more upscale restaurants in the park.

The meet and greet area works as followed. There's a mock fantasy forest set-up, and they have two little areas in there. Each has a princess. First you are directed to the first princess and you can pose with her. And then there's the second. In our case we first met Aurora in her blue dress and then Belle. There's a park photographer present. The photography set-up is impressive to say the least, as they have the entire flash gear build into the area. The photographer will take your photo and give you notes with a number on them that allow you to go buy your photo later should you so desire.

And it gets more impressive as you leave. There's a series of flat screen TVs on one side and a shop on the other. Basically it's like on ride photography but better. Your photos are displayed on large format (without the stupid numbers all over the photo) so you can see them immediately and just turn to the other side of the hall and buy them if you like. Sublime system, very well done. This is also the entrance area for disabled people, and as added bonus, the area should be wheelchair accessible (at least from what I remember and saw it seemed to be, it may not be but I think it is).

The only downside I see to it is that the lighting is sorted out so it is perfect for the Disney photographer. Your own camera is likely not going to produce the same kind of result. And for the love of Pete, turn on your flash. I had my SLR set on no flash and it was not the way forward. Just so you know and don't make the same mistake I did. But like I said, if you LOVE Disney Princesses I would advice doing the Pavilion. Just make sure to be there about 20-10 minutes before it opens so you can avoid being in the queue for prolonged times.
If you're not specially bothered about Princesses, I wouldn't bother with the Pavilion either and use the time for other things instead.

Review and Photography by Hilde Heyvaert

Style Spotlight: Steampunk Lolita

Brands: Aside from indi brands, pretty much every brand in existance has released suitable pieces at one time or another. The trick is to keep an eye out on the brand sites for new releases, even those of Sweet brands and mainly the Classic brands (such as Innocent World, Victorian Maiden and Mary Magdalene) for basic pieces. Even though it is possible to buy an entire outfit Steampunk is still very DIY focussed so there is nothing wrong with making your own stuff or using offbrand pieces.

Commonly used colours: browns, often mixed with hints of beige, black or grey and sometimes even brighter colours.

Prints: keys, clockwork, clocks, everything Victorian, letters, vintage maps, olde style mechanics, stripes, that sort of thing. The base colour of your print does not have to be in brown, black or grey. You can perfectly mix e.g. a coloured skirt or JSK with Steampunk as long as it has the right kind of print or design.

Essential pieces: the typical Lolita basics combined with proper Steampunk accessories such as belts, boots, spats, gears and goggles, hats, whatever you like from that array.

On the left: Heather Luca of Scoundrelle's Keep in one of her designs.
Photo by Drayke Larson.
On the right: a design by Megan Maude.
Photo by LookingLife Photography.

Steampunk Lolita is one of the harder to pull off sub-styles of both Lolita and Steampunk. It's a fine line one will be walking whilst creating a good juxtaposition between the two seeing both styles are so radically different. They may both seek inspiration from the Victorian age and other times past, but whilst Steampunk has a distinctive laissez-faire attitude towards its follower's fashion, with few rules, Lolita is bound by quite a few rather strict rules. Quite often you end up with something too Lolita for Steam or too Steam for Lolita.

Hilde Heyvaert of House of Secrets Incorporated
in an outfit of her own creation.
Photo by Vief Cornelissen.

It is, however, a common misconception that Steampunk Lolitas can only be the steamy nice girls, the precious dolls. They can be anything really: girly mad scientists or explorers, sky pirates with a love for girly pouf in their skirts, your imagination is the limit! Think about what you want first mind, because you'll need a firm picture in your head of how you want your outfit to look before you'll be able to successfully put it together.

For those wanting to attempt this style, its important to keep some Lolita key-rules in mind or else you may end up with a fantastic Steampunk outfit severely lacking in the Lolita department. It's best to start with the basics and build from there.

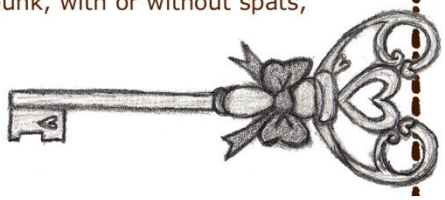
The shape of the skirt for starters, not too short and poufy enough. Touching your kneecaps or just above the knee is a good length. Lolita skirts are generally bellskirts with a waistband, which is thankfully easy enough to make yourself (one of the simplest things to put together yourself really). Most of them have a lace or ruffle trim at the bottom, sometimes a combination of both. A good petticoat is pretty essential. Dresses generally have the same length as skirts. Longer and full lenght garments, as well as bloomer inspired trousers (often seen in the Kodona style) are perfectly suitable too (but be careful so your outfit doesn't look too much like Classic Lolita, Mori Girl or Kodona in the end).

You could look for bits and pieces with the best known Japanese Lolita brands but they have limited Steampunk basics in stock. If you don't know much about the Steampunk style, looking at photos online and reading fashion articles in well known magazines such as the Gatehouse Gazette and The Gatehouse blog to familiarise yourself with the type of garments and acccessories common with Steampunk can not only educate you but also inspire you for your own Steampunk Lolita outfit.

Doing it yourself and searching the high street for good bits and pieces is generally the way forward with this style.
If you can sew well enough yourself, you could buy historical inspired patterns for 50 ties dresses (Vintage Vogue, e.g. has some good patterns), modify them and make your own JSK, bell skirt or pouf sleeved shirt in a nice Steampunk print or a suitable color. Shirts with puff sleeves are easy enough to make yourself or buy in chains like H&M, TopShop, Forever21 or Target. Most chains ship internationally, even to Belgium, if there isn't one in your country. Ruffly long sleeved shirts are also easy enough to come by in chains, or more Gothic oriented stores (although the colour range will probably be limited to mostly blacks & greys there).

Photo by Philip Ng

Neckties, hairbows and spats are awesome accessories that are each and all easy to find online or make yourself.
Faux pearls, a pocket watch, gears (cogs),keys, romantic bits and pieces like roses or other flowers are all excellent also.
Top it off with a bowler or top hat, a hairbow or your trusty pair of goggles (or a combination of several here mentioned), a nice coat and your trusty Steampunk shoes or the Lolita variety thereof (I personally prefer the combo of brown mary-janes with bows [the infamous Secret Shop tea party shoes] with spats over them but I'm equally happy to wear the boots I generally wear with Steampunk, with or without spats, depending on the boots).



Finding the perfect juxtaposition between Steampunk and Lolita is harder than it looks but definitely worth it.

Photo by Hilde Heyvaert

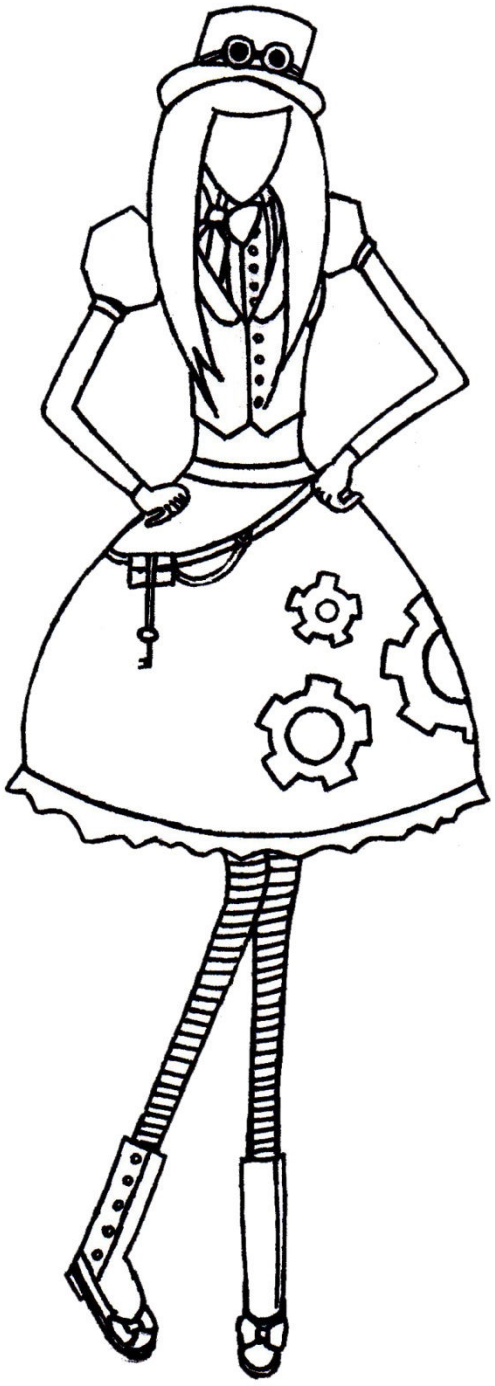
If you want to try this style, don't be intimidated by the strict rules of Lolita fashion, it's not because it's more difficult and harder to put together it can't be worthwhile and awesome.
If done right, this is truly a fantastic way to display your love for Steampunk and Lolita in a more unusual style.

Photo by Saliha Khenfi

Article and drawings by Hilde Heyvaert.

Steampunk Lolita

colouring page



HALLOWEEN in DISNEYLAND RESORT PARIS

In the past, the Halloween season in Disneyland Paris has always been extremely interesting. Plenty of gorgeous decor, Villains, Pumpkin People, several well known characters (such as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, Chip & Dale, Stitch and others) in Halloween costumes and Jack Skellington and his beloved Sally out in the streets to interact with guests, special shows and of course the fact that all guests, not just the under 13s, are allowed to costume to their heart's content (with some reasonable limitations). No longer alas.

This year 99% of the decorations have been ditched. The decorations on Main Street had already largely disappeared last year but this year Halloweenland is no more and just remains regular old Frontierland.
The Pumpkin People and the fabulous Halloween part of the parade have been axed (rumours are this is permanant, so far DLP has refused to comment on the matter).
Jack & Sally's lovely meet and greet area has disappeared and they are now just out and about in front of Phantom Manor without a queue, which proved a really bad plan in 2008 so I wonder why DLP went back to that.
The regular *Villains Halloween Showtime* has been rewritten into *Maleficious Halloween Party* which is nothing to complain about as it maintains everything that made the Villains show so well loved.
A new show called *Mickey's Halloween Treat in the Street* is now performed on the beautifully decorated Castle Stage.

The only thing they actually augmented is the merchandise in various stores. Where the amount of shops selling the Halloween range used to be limited, now most stores and stalls throughout the Disneyland Park and the Village stock up on at least the candy range. The full range remains limited to *Tobias Norton & Sons* in Frontierland and *Lilly's Boutique* on Main Street USA. The range has been considerably expanded with more candy, pasta, plushies, headwear, costume bits and t-shirts. Sometimes of dubious quality, but largely ok.

Basically, if you want to have fun in a Disney park now's as good a time as any. If you want proper Halloween celebrations, just don't bother with Disneyland Paris. It's more Hallowasn't than Halloween and just not worth it. If you like Halloween but don't mind there's not much in the way of decorations and just want to shop for some stuff then it's ideal. Because whilst you can find Christmas things most of the year, you can only find Halloween merchandise during the Halloween season.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Dan Brace, Pieter Grumeaux, Hilde Heyvaert and Sam Van den Bulck. Artwork by Disney.

Happy Halloween!

I'll put a spell on you...

BOO!

THIS IS HALLOWEEN

Meet report: HALLOWEEN comes early this year!

On Sunday the 16th of October the Belgian Cupcakes gathered at Bert and Hilde's place for the annual Halloween meet. Albeit a little early in the month but that didn't stop anyone from dressing up in their (Halloween) finest.

Halloween cards were given to all by Hilde, Margot and Annso and a raffle was held where people could win a headbow that Hilde had made. Lunie and Agnes both came out victorious.
Food and fun was had by all and so it was another fun meet accomplished!

Top row standing: *Arnout and Bert.*
Standing: *Babs, Agnes, Claire, Camille, Margot, Caroline and Saltje*
Sitting: *Arne, Annso, Ine, Hilde, Kitch and Lunie*

Report by Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photos by Hilde Heyvaert.

Halloween Meet Snap

All hail the Red Vines!

Avada Kedavra!

READY FOR A BITE!

Happy Halloween!

An introduction to Candy Day

Candy Day is a German local lolita community based in Frankfurt. The community has been founded in 2006 and has recently celebrated it´s 5th anniversay. I have been running the community for nearly two years after the former host and mod stepped down.

Our focus is meet-ups, we gather nearly every month to spend a nice day together. We have several dozens active members, so the meet ups tend to be rather huge.
Like every lolita group in the world we enjoy having tea parties , picnics, going to fancy places like castles and visiting museums and exhibitions.

Last year when a group of us has been visiting a shoe exhibition at the State museum in Mainz , the museum director saw us and was instantly very interested and keen to learn more about lolita fashion. They were planning a "Japanese Evening" with Japanese food and music and we were offered to perform a fashion show at the museum.
It was an awesome offer but at the beginning most of the Candy Day lolitas were too unsure about taking part in this. Most of the girls were afraid of possible negative reactions.

It took a while to convince everybody that a fashion show at a museum would be a great chance to introduce lolita fashion to "normal" people. Having the chance to explain the ideas and concept behind this and to show the beauty of this fashion to a regular audience. In the end everything went smoothly and most of the visitors were very interested and loved the dresses and outfits. Of course some people didn´t like what they saw - we had expected this , but overall the reception was great! This was a great encouragement to strive for the next goal, a bigger fashion show with a bigger audience !

Photo by Landesmuseum Mainz/ Ursula Rudischer

It didn´t take that long to find a suitable event for the next Candy Day Fashion show.
In fact, I was always dreaming of putting on a lolita fashion show at the Frankfurt book fair.
You might wonder what lolita fashion has to do with books? In this case not much in particular, but Frankfurt book fair - which also happens to be the biggest book fair of the world- has a huge chunk of it´s place dedicated to manga and comics only. Lots of Japanese publishing houses are displaying their works there, famous mangakas are holding panels and signing sessions. Many thousands of manga fans and cosplayers are visiting Franfurt bookfair making this place look like an anime convention. The main attraction for cosplayers is the annual German Cosplay Championship which takes place right there in the heart of the exhibition center.
Lolitas always had the problem to be mistaken as cosplayers. It might sound odd, but I was convinced that having a fashion show at one of the biggest German cosplay events would be helpful for pointing out the differences between cosplay and lolita and maybe get some of the cosplayers interested in that fashion.

Photo by Misaki Takahashi.

Luckily I knew one lolita whose friends were working for the German Cosplay Championship. They were quite excited by the idea to show a lolita runway as opening act, but they warned me, that the participants of the Cosplay Championship had absolute priority concering rehearsal and stage time. Worst case would be that there might be no time left for us for rehearsal. That was quite a risk. The expected number of audience was 2000! All of that was a bit intimidating but I tried to stay confident and do the best as I can to make sure that everything will go smoothly. I found a co-host, ,Bellaoscurita, for helping me to picking out the right girls for the fashion show. We aimed to show quality outfits, well balanced coordinations and a diversity of lolita styles and brands. No replicas were allowed because we wanted to respect the Japanese brands. In order to get as many good models as possible not only Candy Day members were allowed to apply for the runway but the whole German lolita community. Lolita seamstresses, it didn´t matter if professional or not, as long as the garments looked good, were highly encouraged to submit their pieces. Unlike the previous fashion show the interest for this was great! Many girls that came were willing to travel up to six hours just to be part of this! Afterweeks of preparations and anticipation the day of the fashion show finally came, it was the 16th October 2011.

Unexpectedly we did have a bit time for rehearsal which was very useful and the final show went well! More than 25 models strutted their prettiest outfits on the catwalk, we had nearly every substyle (sweet, classic, gothic, ega, punk, kuro) covered. Every model had to style themself and they made a good job! We introduced brands like Angelic Pretty, Alice and the Pirates,Metamorphose Temps de Fille and Moi Meme Moitie. Not only the cosplayers but also the normal book fair audience was stunned by the show!

The Candy Day is very proud that we could prove that it is possible to hold a big lolita fashion show in Germany, outside of Japan! We hope that lolita fashion will earn more recognitition as a fashion substyle and we're working towards to organise more fashion shows on big events in the future!

By the way Candy Day loves to have international guests, we already had lolitas from Singapore and the US visiting us. Belgian lolitas, don´t hesitate to drop me a line if it happens that you're going to Frankfurt one day!

Article by Hoa Tu Ngoc (Harlyharlekin).
Photography by Ursula Rudischer for the Landesmuseum Mainz and Misaki Takahashi.

Event report: F.A.C.T.S

On Saturday October 22 and Sunday October 23 it was once again time for the annual F.A.C.T.S. convention in Ghent. With an expected guest as Tom Felton, it promised to be a very busy and crowded convention. This is a report of the first day.

And crowded it was. It even seemed that there were a lot more people than the year before; visitors had to squeeze themselves through the hallways, there were hordes of people everywhere and taking pictures proved to be quite difficult. But especially the "guest alley" of the convention was overcrowded almost the whole day. The reason? Tom Felton, the actor portraying Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter-movies, was present and proved to be a true 'fan magnet'.

Report by Agnes Van De Genachte.
Photography by Innocent Coppieters.

At 1pm, the Belgian Cupcakes gathered in the gaming room for a group picture. As we were getting ready to have our picture taken, a small mob formed before us of to take pictures. It was a bit awkward but of course to be expected at a convention. Though I'm sure that most people thought we were just in costume or cosplaying.

F.A.C.T.S. was –as always- crowded in a way that often made it a bit unpleasant. But it's still a great way to get together with friends and have fun.

Event report: F.A.C.T.S

Like every year the F.A.C.T.S. convention, which claims to be the largests of it's kind in the Benelux, was held at Flanders Expo Ghent on the 22nd and 23rd of October. This is a small review of the second day.

Generally speaking the Sunday is the least busy day of the two, but it was still ridiculousy crowded. Areas that were ok last year had been filled to the brim this year, which made finding friends and manouvering around quite tricky at times.

Whilst F.A.C.T.S. does seem to try to cater to a variety of tastes (gaming, cosplay, meeting celebrities and shopping) it largely remains uninteresting for those that come there to hang out with friends when it's hellishly crowded like this edition.
If you're not there to meet a celebrity, cosplay or shop then there's not really much to do. Hanging out is rather difficult because it's just so increadibly crowded. Even the times where you could do epic deals shopping at F.A.C.T.S. seem to be firmly in the past as nowadays there is largely catered to the most famous fandom of the moment rather than offering a wide range of things. At often ridiculous prices no less.

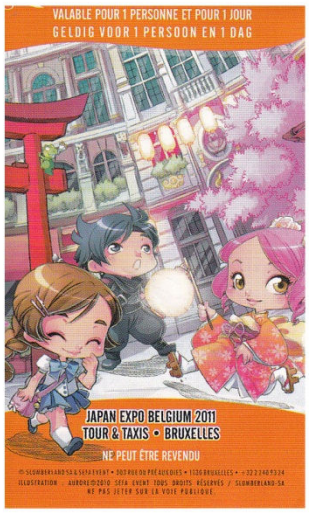
Also the volume of the cosplay competition should be held in check, because seriously not everyone is there for that and most of us value our eardrums.
At times it got so loud you couldn't even hear what your friends were saying at the café all the way accross the games room. So yeah, the noise really was a bother at times.

Report by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

"Set Phasers to Love me", a colouring page by Carnet Atelier.

Event Report: japan expo belgium

From Friday the 4th until Sunday the 6th of November it was time for the first edition of Japan Expo Belgium. With a name as "Japan Expo" – after the well-known Japan Expo Paris - came high expectations for this convention, thus making it an exciting wait.



Located at Tour & Taxis Brussel at the Brussels North train station, Japan Expo Belgium was easily accessible, which was a big plus.

The convention itself was small and not too crowded on Sunday. The problem of this being that after an hour or two everything was already seen.

The other activities that were going on – like cosplay, free-podium and Japanese sports - weren't all that interesting.

While waiting for the cosplay competition to start, I tested out the Maid & Butler Café. Which turned out to be a giant rip-off with no Dutch speaking butlers or maids and extremely expensive low-quality food and drinks.

So I was glad that at least the Aural Vampire gig was amazing.

Same for the cosplay-competition where the representatives for Euro Cosplay at Japan Expo Paris 2012 were chosen.

The biggest problem of the convention was the language; the website, announcements, information, staff, crew, shop-keepers, etc, were all French and Dutch seemed to be a big problem. So yes, there's still quite some work to do on this convention, but I think it will be able to grow a lot and become an equal for Japan Expo Paris, in due time.

Article by Agnes Van De Genachte. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Caroline Heylighen.

japan expo belgium

Sunday, November 6
Tour & Taxis
Brussel

Aural Vampire signing autographs

Exo-Chika & Raveman

Belgian Cupcakes group shot
me, Caroline, Saltje, Sao, Kate, Lora, Babs and Claire

Behold, the biro!

Photos by Hilde & Tom

Christmas at Disneyland Paris

Monday, November 7 2011 - Sunday, January 8 2012

Review by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Unlike the severely diminished Halloween season earlier in 2011, Disneyland Paris is still going full out on their Christmas season (now we know where the budget went to). And not just that, they even expanded it this year with several characters receiving new costumes (Winnie the Pooh and Mickey Mouse the most prominently present for meet and greets) and the addition of Duffy the Disney Bear (Mickey's Teddybear per the story that originated in Tokyo Disney Sea some years ago) who has now finally arrived in Disneyland Paris wearing his own little Christmas outfit (which is quite familiar to the one Winnie the Pooh used to wear so that might have played a part in Pooh Bear's new outfit).

Starting from the entrance on Main Street USA, working up to Frontierland, there are several stops guests can make to pose with a Christmas character. Ranging from Santa Goofy on *Town Square*, to Duffy & Mickey at the entrance of the Liberty Arcade, to Winnie the Pooh at *Casey's Corner* and Santa, his elves and some 100 Acre Woods residents at *Disney's Santa Claus Village* in Frontierland.

As usual the little "post office" where you can write a letter to Santa (envelopes are provided by Disney) is open and running. It is located at the entrance of Santa's Village.

Belle and her Beast are no longer the Christmas royalty, instead they have been replaced by Aurora (in her parade dress yet she is unavailable for meet and greets like Belle and the Beast were).

And of course over in Fantasyland *Belle's Christmas Village* is open but beware, it is small so tends to overcrowd very quickly. The merchandise can be found at other places in the park too, but they do have some stalls with soup, candy canes, bretzels and mulled wine, which aren't found in the rest of the park. Possibly later into the season they may sell these things at Disney Village (which already had a few stalls up) but whether or not that will actually happen I'm not sure.

Aside from the wonderful décor and plenty of characters to have your photo taken with there are several shows ranging from the older *Mickey's Winter Wonderland* in Frontierland to the new *Mickey's Magical Celebration* on Main Street's *Central Plaza*. There's the *tree lighting ceremony* of course, this year with Duffy as a special guest but also *Aurora's Christmas wish*. And to top it off there is the Christmas part to the *Once Upon a Dream Parade*.

I did not visit the *Walt Disney Studios Park* due to time constraints, but according to Dan from *Character Central* that park also has Christmas decorations and characters dressed for the season.
The *Disney Village* is also wonderfully decked for the occasion and you can find pretty much all merchandise from the parks in stores there as well.

If you have a moment to spare have a look in the *Disneyland Hotel* because it's simply stunning with its huge Christmas tree and gingerbread house. Christmas really is a season that becomes the Victorian setting of that hotel so it's definitely worth taking the time to go visit the lobbies (both ground and first floor).

If you love Christmas and Disney, you will probably adore their Christmas season. The only downside is that it's a peak season and thus it can be very crowded with long queues for everything. And it also gets very cold that time of year. So wear warm clothes and be prepared for long waits!

The not Lolita meet

Sunday, November 13

Louvain, Belgium

Hilde in Mori-kei, Caroline in Mori Girl, Margot in Dolly-kei, Annso in Mori Girl and Lora in Lolita.

Meet report: Christmas market/ 3RD ANNIVERSARY

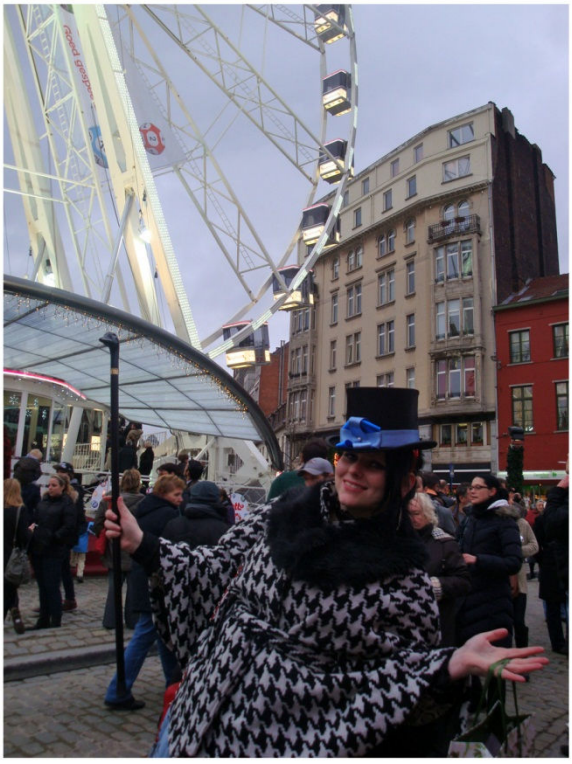
On the first weekend of December, the Belgian Cupcakes hold their annual meet to celebrate the anniversary of the Belgian Cupcakes forum! Happy Birthday!! *confetti*
Like last year, the meet went out to the Christmas Market in Brussels. To get in the Holiday spirit it was agreed on to hold a Secret Santa Swap and a Card Swap. Everyone was very enthusiastic about this swap idea so almost everyone joined in!
Now onto the 4th of December 2011. We met at the Central Station in Brussels at 12 o'clock, some of us arrived earlier and decided to attack Starbucks for some hot chocolate and a good old cup of tea.
When everyone arrived, we set foot into the city. The weather forecast for the day was quite frightening with rain and wind but it turned out to be a beautiful day!

Because most of us had had to sit through a long train ride we were craving for some lunch first. And what would be better than Exki? After lunch, we went for a walk around Brussels and discovered a Japanese restaurant. Actually that's wrong, Claire discovered a Pink lighted Cherry Blossom tree which turned out to be a decoration from a Japanese restaurant to attract people, seems like it worked! Once the necessary photographs were taken, we went along to the Christmas market.

We needed to turn back in order for Annso, who was joining us in the afternoon, to find us. So we went back to the little square at the Grasmarkt. We planted ourselves down on a brasserie terrace outside and decided to hold our Card exchange. Some were hand-made, others were store-bought but they were all so cute! Hilde even sealed the envelopes with a real wax seal and included a candy cane for everyone. After that, it was time to reveal the Secret Santa's.

There was a lot of ooh-ing and aah-ing over the presents. After spending 20 minutes or more on the terrace, a waiter decided it was time to "shoo" us away because apparently those tables and chairs were merely for appearance. After some evil looks his way, we met up with Annso and the group picture was taken. Around 15.00 Saltje, Babs and Hilde, who wasn't feeling well, left for home and the rest went to the Christmas Market.

Gluhwein was drank, Pancakes were eaten, macaroons bought and annoying camera dudes evil eyed. We came across the most awesome carrousel ever seen! All in the steampunk atmosphere, it wasn't fair only kids could ride it! There were lots of little stalls with wooden jewelry and toys, hand-blown Christmas baubles and much more. When we got to the Ferris wheel, Claire in her impressive circus director outfit fitted right in.



Around 16.30 we headed back to the station because people needed to catch their trains. During our way back some stopped to get frozen yoghurt (which was yummy!). I had a train at 16.40, which was the time we arrived there. Luckily for me, trains from the nmbs are late most of the time so I managed to get on the train!
This was the first time we held a Swap meet and I hope many more will follow!
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Report by Valerie Vliegen. Photos by Hilde Heyvaert (photo Valerie) and Valerie Vliegen (photo Claire).

Merry Christmas!

FOUR GOOD REASONS TO VISIT

THE UK'S BIGGEST J-CULTURE EVENT 2012 Spring HYPER JAPAN

1. The Fashion Show!

The *"Frills and Frolics: Japanese Street Fashion Show"* to showcase more than just Lolita fashion. There will be Gyaru, Fairy-kei, Otome, Mori-girl, Kodona, etc. Of course the three main substyles of Lolita (Gothic, Sweet & Classic) will be showcased but I'm trying to convey to the public that Lolita is a fashion and not another form of Cosplay which is why I'm lumping it in a 'Japanese Street Fashion' show.

The models then will have a 2 minutes interview at the end of the walk to tell the audience a bit more about what they're wearing and their respective styles during the show.

Article by Tania Tanzil Pixie-Late).
Photography by Saoirse Clohessy Photography
& images provided courtesy of Tania Tanzil.

2. Lolita Photobooth!

The art/installation of the photobooth will be done by *Emma Chipperfield*. There will be an OTT surreal medical themed set for people to pose in. The photobooth though is essentially for people who want to try out Lolita fashion but never had the chance to. We will provide clothes and accessories, etc so we can style said girl/boy and transform them into a Lolita/male equivalent.

3. Fashion tab!

Watch out for the "*FASHION*" tab on Hyper Japan's website as Emma and I will have blog updates on what's happening! Recruits, reports and reviews on anything Lolita or Japanese street fashion related, especially on what's coming up on the next Hyper Japan!

4. Lolita Boutique!

There will also be a "*Lolita Boutique*" for people who've got a webshop to sell their Lolita handicrafts!

Practical Information

THE UK'S BIGGEST J-CULTURE EVENT 2012 Spring HYPER JAPAN

when:
Friday 24 - Sunday 26
February 2012

opening times:
Friday 24 February 15:00-21:00
Saturday 25 February 09:30-20:00
Sunday 26 February 09:30-17:00

location:
Earls Court, Brompton Hall
London, United Kingdom

website:
http://hyperjapan.co.uk

ticket presales have already started, buying your ticket in advanced is advised. See the website for more information!

Boyfriends, what's their opinion?

Ever wondered what the significant others of Lolita fashion adepts (or should that be addicts?) think of all the fashion and community related things their partners get into? Well here's the opinion of two of them.

Name: Arne Masuy
Age: 21
Boyfriend of: Annso

General opinion about Lolita fashion in one sentence:
Thank god she looks good in it, 'cause it's friggin' expensive.

Name: Bert Van den Wyngaert
Age: 31
Husband of: Hilde

General opinion about Lolita fashion in one sentence:
Ok this I can't manage. Not in one sentence.

Did you ever hear/read something about Lolita fashion before you were together with your Lolita girlfriend?
Before we were together we already were close friends, and so I was introduced to the fashion style. Before that I had no idea it even existed, the only definition I knew of 'Lolita' was derived from literature, thanks to my class: "A sexually attractive young woman".
I knew the word in a different context, just like a lot of people. But I didn't know it as a fashion style no.

Do you like the Lolita styles she wears? Or do you prefer other clothing styles? If yes, which others?
She mostly wears classic or sweet. I really like the classic style, mainly thanks to its colours and also its likeness to Victorian-era clothing. I can still find the sweet style pretty, but I guess the classic style is more mature where the sweet one has a bigger emphasis on cute. I'm also just not a big fan of pink. Annso does wear other styles from time to time, such as the Punk Lolita for a festival, which I did like. Mori-girl with its layers and forest theme as well, I wouldn't mind if it replaced the sweet style in her closet.
I don't really like styles in general. If I see something I think is nice then I think it's nice. Some Lolita pieces Hilde wears are nice, others aren't my thing.

What do you think is positive about it and what is negative? Something you really dislike about it?
On the positive side there's that it actively makes her happy to get new Lolita things, the fact I do think she looks good in it and that it's an alternative style, it's not something you see every day. On the negative side: I cry myself to sleep, clutching my bank card, each night and wake up drenched in cold, cold sweat from the night terrors. I'm joking of course, but if there's something I dislike about it, it is its price.
I think it is positive that Lolitas are brave enough to go against mainstream fashion and aren't afraid of the opinions of some small minded people. I like how they have social events such as meets where they can get together. What I think is negative is the cost, especially the stuff imported from Japan is far too expensive for what it is in my opinion. I really dislike that.

Do you sometimes feel uncomfortable or watched in public when accompanied by your girl dressed in Lolita?
I do not feel uncomfortable nor watched. I don't mind people watching her when she's dressed like that but there have been occasions I grew angry if I saw people laughing with it, mocking it. I get it though, it's something they're not used to and non-conforming scares the ir peanut brains and narrow minds. I don't think I will ever react verbally on it in public though, I prefer ignoring their ignorant behavior or giving them the stink -eye, it's surprising how easily they're silenced when they notice somebody not dressed in Lolita is watching them with disdain.
Hilde always dresses unconventional so there isn't a difference between times when she wears Lolita and others. I don't like it when people overreact when it comes to paying attention, and sometimes it does make me feel uncomfortable, but I think she should wear what she wants.

What will you never ever understand about the Lolita scene?
Annso has told me about all sorts of things I don't understand. It's mainly based on all the drama. The 'secrets' site, where Lolita's anonymously mock and berate other Lolita's. All the drama about brands ... I'm just not even getting into that.
I will never understand why it's so much about brand with a lot of people. It's unnecessary. There are so many other options like buying non-brand. Or making things yourself if you can.

And a last question just for fun: do YOU have a favourite brand that you like to see most on your girl?
Emily Temple Cute.
Nope.

Questions by Annso Vermeylen. With thanks to Arne and Bert for taking out the time to answer them. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Guy Van den Wyngaert.

Cupcake focus: Hilde

LOLITA ID

Name: Hilde Heyvaert
Forum nick: Hildekitten
Age: 31
Styles: Steampunk, Casual, Dieselpunk
Favourite brands: Innocent World, Black Peace Now, H. Naoto
Lolita since: 2003 - 2006 and then again starting 2010

For our fourth focus Annso asked Hilde, the chief editor of this magazine and the Cupcakes resident Steampunk some questions.

What made you start with the Lolita fashion?
Back in day my mum bought me a copy of the first Fruits book, and there were some Gothic Lolitas in that. I was fed up with the then current cuter styles of Gothic so I decided to give it a go. I found some others into Lolita on livejournal and that was that really. Basically I got into solely for the aesthetic originally. I remember that back in the day there were barely any shopping services, prices were even more ridiculous as now and we all had to pretty much make do making our own stuff and scrounging through the ita-racks in Camden Town (London) and some online stores and hope for the best. Occassionally something useable appeared and we we'd all so happy about that. It were definitely different times.
I left around 2006 for a while because I got fed up with the bitchyness that had become normal. I decided to rejoin after hanging out with Lintje and Saltje for months because I figured that at least locally it wouldn't be a total bitchfest. So yeah, here I am.

What's your most favourite thing about this fashion, something you absolutely love about it?
I adore how it allows room for people's personal styles to be mixed into it. Like Steampunk. Although of course the argument remains whether Steampunk Lolita is part of Lolita or Steampunk. I like to think it's an equal part of both, but I digress. Basically I love how I can still be a Steampunk and still be welcome with my own crowd so to say and the Lolitas.

Which lolita styles doesn't appeal to you at all, and why? Is there a Lolita style you would ban? And what kind of Lolita style would you like to see more of?
I don't really have anything against any of the styles out there. I wouldn't wear most of it myself because it's not my proverbial cup of tea, but I can appreciate it and like it on others.
What I would like to see banned, however are some the Cos-Lolita styles that aren't proper styles to start with but give the entire fashion a bad name due the misconceptions that arise. I'm talking about things like maid, nun and other dubious lolified costumes that often look like they were bought in some kind of fetish shop. If people like that sort of thing then good for them, but it has no place near Lolita. Sadly there are several sites out there that list it amongst genuiene styles, causing a lot of confusion and misconceptions.
I would of course, out of sheer self-interest I admit, like to see more of Steampunk Lolita popping up. And of other fringe styles like Dieselpunk and Military. I really like stuff like that.

What kind of advice would you give people who don't dare to wear Lolita in public?
You'll look different than what people are used to. Some people will be wonderful, some will be utter and total jerks and behave like the fucktards that they are. Beware that this will happen. Don't let it stop you however. You are fully entitled to look like you want and should not let these morons stop you.

Do you have a must have dream item? If so, what would that be?
Oddly enough I don't. I've got a pretty full closet, I've got a Dalek print skirt and lots of Steampunk bits and pieces I love. I've got goggles and epic bags. I'm inclined to say I'm all set for a long longtime to come. I really don't need more stuff.

(HALLOWEEN) Cupcake Snap!

Photography by the Archonia photographer at F.A.C.T.S., Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.
Art by Hilde Heyvaert, Agnes Van De Genachten and Annso Vermeylen.

Happy Valentine's Day

Mochi: A quick and easy recipe!

by Valerie Vliegen

Tools needed:

- A cup (one that will hold 250 ml.
  But any cup will do, if you take a bigger one, you'll get more mochi, if it's smaller you'll get less.)
- A microwave safe bowl
- A chopping board
- A sharp knife
- A spoon
- Muscles

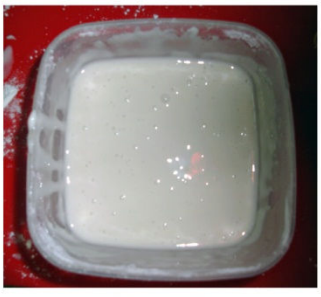
Ingredients needed for 10 - 14 mochi

- 1 cup of Mochiko (Glutinous rice flour) + some extra for dusting. It has to be glutinous since regular rice flour kind won't stick and will make a floury mess. To find this, visit your local Asian supermarket.
- ½ of a cup Sugar
- 2/3 of a cup water
- Filling of your choice: chocolate, Nutella, fruit (apple, banana, strawberries, …), speculoos, cookies, …
  Use your fantasy and be creative!
- Food colouring (optional)

Recipe:

1. Measure one cup of mochi and dump it in your microwave safe bowl.
2. Add the ½ cup of sugar into the bowl.
3. Stir.

Step 3



Step 5

4. Add the water slowly while mixing it with a spoon.
5. Add water until it turns into a honey texture mixture. (If you haven't used up all water that's okay. Drink it! It's good for you!) All the bumps have to be gone and you'll have to have a smooth mixture.
6. If you want to colour your mochi, add the food colouring now. After this it will be too late and you'll get colour everywhere except on your mochi.
7. Put the bowl into the microwave for 2 minutes.
8. While your mochi is heating in the microwave, cut your fruit (first wash it of course) /cookies/speculoos/chocolate in little pieces.
9. If your mochi dough looks horrendous and gross when taken out of the microwave, that's good!
10. Take a spoon and turn the dough into bowl, this takes some strength.
    Be careful not to burn your hands!
11. Pad some mochiko on your chopping board. Spread out the mixture and make sure it's covered in mochi.

Step 9

Step 11

12. Cut a bit of mochiko, spread it out, cover your filling and shape into a nice ball. (Dust some mochiko on your hands so the dough won't stick)
13. Roll the mochi into the mochiko.
14. And make many more.
15. Eat them while they are hot, or wait 'till they are cold.
16. Enjoy!

These last 2-3 days (depending on the filling).

Warning: Mochi is very sticky!
Don't give mochi to little children or older people who have a hard time chewing as this can lead to suffocation.
(I'm not responsible for accidents!)

PHOTO BY LOREN R JAVIER
RECIPE BY DISNEY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A very happy birthday to the Cupcakes celebrating theirs...

In January:

1: Babs

In February:

7: Lunie

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline.
Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get all the pieces, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.
The deadline for issue 5 is **February 27**.
Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the 28th of February will not appear in the magazine.

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.
Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hildekitten@gmail.com
That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc etc etc.
If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!
Do _not_ send me forum PMs, I don't do pm and your message won't be answered, but I do answer my email so you can reach me on there without problems.
When you submit artwork or photos, they must be at least 2000 pixels and jpg files.
(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.
Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!
ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).
That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proofreaders and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

NEXT ISSUE.

Next issue (our fifth) will be the spanning the months March and April of 2012.

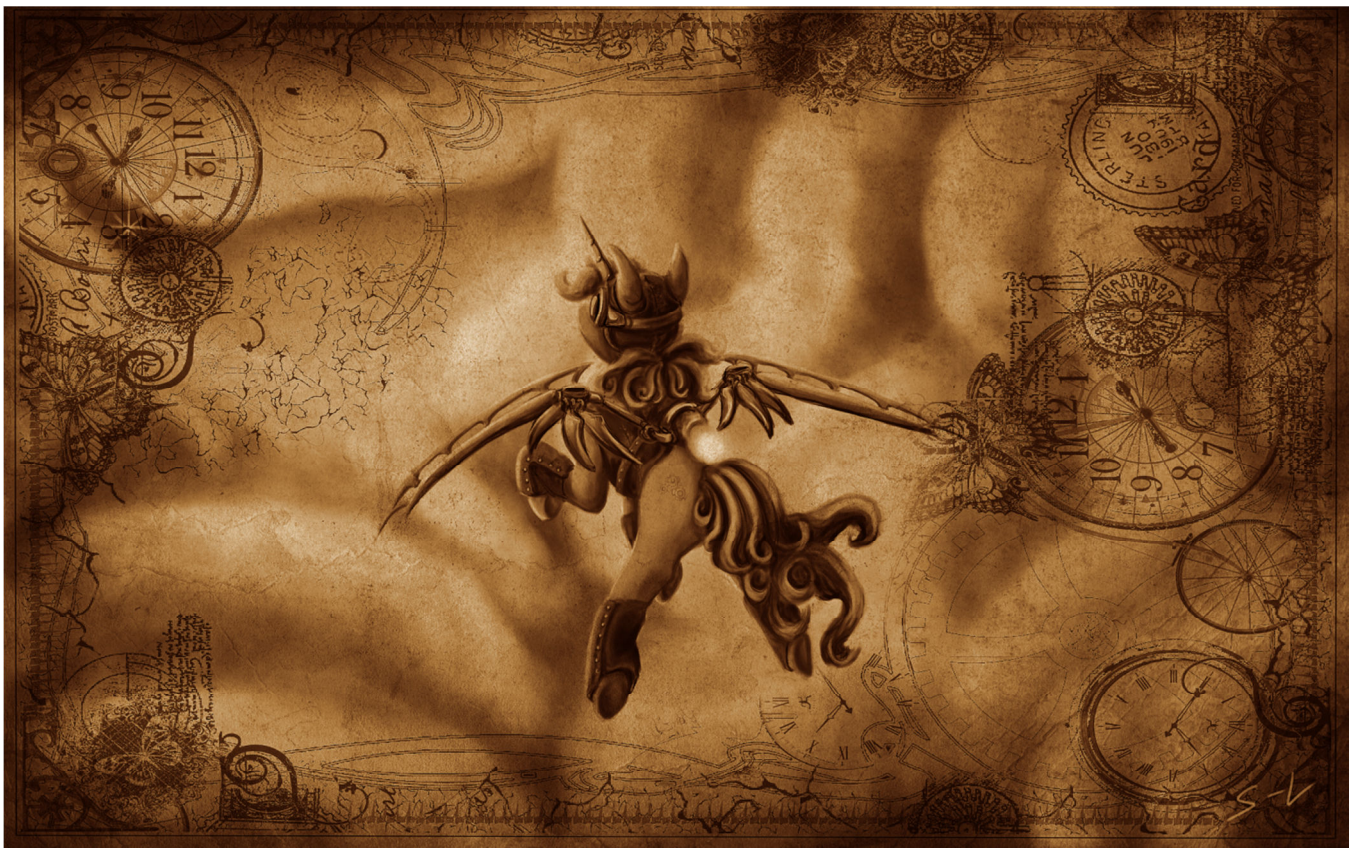
Meet report: January
Meet report: February
Event report: Gala Nocturna (February 12)
Event report: Hyper Japan (February 24 – 26)

Cupcake Focus: Agnes
Style Spotlight: Gothic Lolita
Vief's tales
The devil wears frills too…

St-Patrick's Day postcard

Recipe for miso soup
Artwork

Cupcake Snap
Holidays Snap, a collection of outfits worn during the past Christmas and New Year's (Eve) celebrations



"Steam Pony"
By Sue-Lyn Vandenheede